

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 DHA-02 MCT-01 ACDA-07 /080 W
-----141447Z 063421 /50
R 141420Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9341
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1106

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, MA
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN DRM (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR):
NEW REGULATIONS ONS ON POLICE DETENTION; SINGLE
LIST FOR LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS; STUDENT UNREST

REF: ANTANANARIVO 1084

1. ON FRIDAY, JUNE 10, THE OFFICIAL RADIO AND TV STATIONS OF THE DRM ANNOUNCED A CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE AND REGULATIONS REGARDING POLICE DETENTION OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF CRIMES OR OFFENSES AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE STATE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ANNOUNCEMENT WITH LOCAL LAWYERS, AND MAIN CHANGE APPEARS TO BE THAT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH PERSONS CAN BE HELD BY THE JUDICIAL POLICE FOR FIFTEEN DAYS, AS AGAINST EIGHT PREVIOUSLY, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO HIGHER JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. DURING THIS PERIOD THE PRISONER MAY BE FORBIDDEN TO SEE HIS COUNSEL EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY THE INVESTIGATING AUTHORITIES. THIS FIFTEEN-DAY PERIOD CAN BE RENEWED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (PROCUREUR GENERAL) OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER, " THE NEW REGULATIONS ENTERED INTO FORCE AS OF THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT WITHOUT AWAITING THEIR PROMULGATION IN THE GOVERNMENT REGISTER (JOURNAL OFFICIEL). ALSO INCLUDED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT WERE SOME SAFEGUARDS
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REGARDING DETENTION NOT INVOLVING THE SECURITY OF THE STATE.

2. MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE EXACT MEANING OR CONTENT OF THE NEW REGULATIONS WERE THE PUBLICITY AND SENSE OF URGENCY DELIBERATELY GIVEN TO THEM BY THE DRM. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT GIVE ANY REASON FOR THE URGENCY, AND

IT IS VARIOUSLY SPECULATED TO BE CONNECTED WITH RUMORS ABOUT COUP ATTEMPTS OR THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF KIM IL SUNG, NOW IN WIDE CIRCULATION BUT NOT CONFIRMED. FRENCH EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MAY BE DESIGNED SIMPLY TO INTIMIDATE ADVENTUROUS SOULS OR TO DISCOURAGE DISGRUNTLED OFFICE SEEKERS FROM AN OPPOSITION TO PRESENT DRM LINE OF ACTION.

3. DISGRUNTLED ONES WILL SOON INCREASE AS POLITICAL PARTIES IN NATIONAL FRONT, WITH EXCEPTION OF MONIMA, HAVE AGREED TO PRESENT A SINGLE LIST FOR THE 137 CANDIDATES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. POLITICAL BREAKDOWN OF LIST IS AGREED (112 AREMA, 16 AKFM, 7 VONJY, 2 UDECMA) BUT NOT IDENTITY OF CANDIDATES. EXPECTED GOVERNMENT SHAKEUP AFTER JUNE 30 ELECTIONS MAY PRODUCE ADDITIONAL MALCONTENTS.

4. WHATEVER THE REASON, FRIDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY ADDS TO THE UNEASY STATE OF THE NATION DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL. THE SITUATION HAS NOT BEEN HELPED BY DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE END OF LAST WEEK BY STUDENTS OF THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE DEMANDING A CHANGE IN THE TYPE OF DIPLOMA AWARDED. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCN SOME SHOTS WERE FIRED LAST FRIDAY NIGHT AT DEMONSTRATORS IN FRONT OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESULTING IN SOME WOUNDED.BARRETT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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